before 30th June, 1993 relating to deposits held by them as on March 31, 1993 to the respective regional offices; and

(b) if so, what is the number of companies that have complied with this direction, company-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have in a press release issued on May 31, 1993 advised all non-banking financial companies, miscellaneous non-banking companies are residuary non-banking companies to submit by June 30, 1993 their annual returns relating to deposits held by them as on March 31, 1993 to the respective regional offices of Department of Financial Companies, RBI.

(b) So far returns have been received by the regional offices of RBI from 26 residuary non-banking companies and 9466 other financial companies.

हथकरघा क्षेत्र को संविधान की नौवीं अनुसूची में शामिल किया जाना

*220. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार हथकरघा क्षेत्र को संविधान की नौवीं अनुसूची में शामिल करने का विचार रखती है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्योरा क्या है, और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) सरकार का यह मत है कि इस समय हथकरघा (उत्पादन के लिए आरक्षित मद) अधिनियम- 1985 को भारत के संविधान की नौवीं अनुसूची में शामिल करने से हथकरघा क्षेत्र को कोई विशेष लाभ नहीं होगा ।

New Policy on STD Payphones

1864. SHRI SOM PAL:

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

SHRI SANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

SHRI BRAHMADEO ANAND PASWAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new policy on STD payphones has been announced as reported in the Hindustan Times of 25th July 1993; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof and objectives to be achieved through this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A new policy on STD Payphones has been issued vide Department of Telecommunications Memo No. 31-13/91-PHB on 24th July, 1993 and is placed on the Table of the House as Statement.

Statement

Copy of Letter No. 31-13/91-PHB Dated 24th July 1993 Issued by Department of Telecommunications to All Chief General Managers Telecom/Telephone M.T.N.L. Delhi and Bombay.

Subject: Review of Policy on STD PCOs.

Under the orders of Hon'ble Minister of State (C), the liberalised policy of allotment of STD Payphones enumerated in our office Memo No. 31-13/91-PHB dated 14-8-92 has been reviewed with a view to provide greater employment opportunities to educated unemployed. The following guidelines are issued for implementation with immediate effect.

I. GENERAL.

1. *Eligibility*: Only educated unemployed persons are eligible to apply for allotment of STD PCOs. They should produce an unemployment certificate from their local MPs/MLAs/Revenue Authorities of the rank of Tehsildar and above/employment officer/Chairman or Member of Zila Parishads/Panchayat or Village Pradhan or Secretaries of recognised Social Organisations like Rotary Club/Lions Club etc. who have jurisdiction over the locality where the applicant resides. The educational qualifications for the applicants are:—

(i) *for rural areas*: 5th or middle school pass and above.

(ii) *for urban areas*: atleast matriculate or High School and above.

Application is to be submitted in the prescribed proforma enclosing the unemployment certificate and agreeing to the terms and conditions prescribed by the Department of Telecom for the operation of STD PCOs.

2. *Selection of bonafide persons*: A committee with a composition as given below will select the applicants for allotment of STD PCOs after proper scrutiny and verification of bonafides. As a check against possible frauds, photocopy of the unemployment certificate may be sent by registered letter to the issuing authority with a covering letter requesting for getting it verified. The Committee will allot the available number of PCOs giving preference to following categories of persons:—

(a) Handicapped including blind persons.

(b) SC/ST applicants.

(c) Ex-servicemen/War widows.

(d) Retired DOT employees or their dependants.

(e) Dependents of Freedom Fighters.

(f) Charitable Institution/Hospitals.

The committee will be fully authorised to allot STD PCOs and also decide the location of the new PCOs.

Composition of the Committee:

(a) The committee for allotment of the new STD pay phones would consist as under:

(i) Head of the SSA Chairman

(ii) An Officer from the Finance & Accounts Wing of the Department working under the SSA Head such as AO/CAO etc. Member.

(iii) Three Non official members would be nominated by the Ministry for a tenure period of two years.

3. *Procedure for allotment*: The Committee will meet atleast once every month depending on the amount of work relating to allotment STD PCO to scrutinise and select the applications from the eligible persons for STD PCO allotment.

4. *Loan facility to STD PCO Allottees*: SSA Head will issue a certificate of allotment of STD PCO to the allottee to enable him to seek loan etc. from scheduled banks. SSA Head will also provide all assistance in this regard.

5. *Extent of provision*: Upto 5% capacity of the exchange lines is to be reserved for allotment of PCOs (STD and Local).

6. *Type of Exchange to which STD PCOs should be parented*:

STD PCOs should normally be parented to an Electronic Exchange only. In a place which is served by electro mechanical exchanges, a new 128 PC-DOT electronic exchange or an electronic exchange of a higher capacity with 16 KHz home metering capability can be opened and all STD Payphones may be parented to this electronic exchange. The call loggers working with these STD PCOs should be operated on 16 KHz cycle pulse from the parented electronic exchange.

7. *General conditions.*

(i) One applicant should be provided with only one STD payphone. However, the existing bulk franchisees will continue to operate as per terms and conditions of their existing agreemegnt.

(ii) All STD payphones should be so installed that they face public road/lane to allow free access to public.

(iii) The opening hours of such public telephone would be atleast from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.

(iv) Terminal equipment used by the allottee should be interface approved and they should not be programmable locally. Simple call loggers/Change indicators manufactured by Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd. or other manufacturers which are interface approved by the department should be used. Use of stop watch will not be permitted (list of approved charge indicators is being circulated separately).

(v) The allottee of STD PCO will be entitled to 20 paise per call unit upto 10,000 call units, 15 paise per call unit in the range of 10,000 to 20,000 call units and 10 paise per call unit beyond 20,000 call units as commission for the total number of call units made over a period of one month.

Procedure for recovery of security deposit and bills from STD PCO allottee will be as under:

Two accounts either in a Public Sector bank or in Post Office savings Bank will be opened per STD PCO allottee. The first account will be opened in the name of Department of Telecom in which the allottee will deposit daily the entire collection of the day after deducting 20 paise per call unit uptpo 10,000 call units, 15 paise per call unit in the range of 10,000 to 20,000 call units and 10 paise per call unit beyond 20,000 call units as commission for the total number of call units made over a period of one month. The A.O(TR) will monitor the proper deposit of the amounts by co-ordinating with bank/post office and will also ensure that all bills in respect of these STD PCOs are timely adjusted from above account. The other account will be in the name of the allottee and it will be pledged to the President of the Union of India. The allottee will deposit 5 paise per call unit in this account daily towards security deposit and this deposit will continue to be made till the amount becomes equal to Rs. 5000 in respect of Urban STD PCOs or Rs. 600 in the case of rural STD PCOs or average one month revenue whichever is higher. In rural areas, if the facility of Bank or Post Office is not available nearby, the above deposits can be made weekly. The telephone Inspectors and JTOs in the field will periodically inspect and check the passbooks of PCO allottees for prompt depositing. Defaulters, if any, in this regard should be brought to the notice of higher authorities for taking action against them. Lapses on the part of the field staff during inspection will be dealt with severe penalties.

(vi) The security deposit can also be deposited in cash in one instalment or be in the form of a Bank Guarantee.

(vii) Rates of pulse should be displayed prominently by the allottee of STD PCO for all important stations in the country and all stations within 200 kms.

(viii) The applicants have to apply in the prescribed form for the allotment of STD PCOs.

(ix) The applicant should sign an agreement in the prescribed form with the Telecom Authority when an STD PCO is allotted to him

(x) Incoming call facility will be allowed on all STD PCOs

(xi) Shifting of STD PCOs within the local area is permitted. Normal shifting charges applicable to DEL will be levied.

(xii) Periodical surprise checks should be done to see that the allottee charges customers as per the guidelines gievn by Department of Telecom.

(xiii) Guidelines for applying for PTs and rules governing them should be published in the commercial information pages of the telephone directory.

(xiv) Periodical advertisements may be inserted in local newspapers, when sufficient number of applicants are not forthcoming.

I. RURAL

Apart from the general conditions the following guidelines have to be followed in respect of rural STD PCO operation. The rural STD PCO is defined for this purpose as one working in an exchange system which has a total capacity of 512 lines and less:

1. A minimum guaranteed revenue per PCO per month in the case of rural STD PCOs is fixed as R. 100.

2. A security deposit of Rs. 600 based on six months guarantee revenue or monthly average whichever is higher has to be deposited by the allottee of the STD rural PCO. This average revenue is calculated on the basis of the revenue of the previous six months.

3. Weekly billing cycle would be followed for recovery of STD PCO charges.

III. NON-RURAL (URBAN)

Apart from the general conditions mentioned above, the guidelines detailed below have to be followed in respect of the STD PCOs scheme in Non-rural (Urban) areas:

1. Atleast one STD PCO may be made available for about every 100 dwelling/ Business Premises.

2. *STD PCO Location*

While selecting the location for allotment of PCO, the SSA Head will consult the local bodies like Municipality, Public Institutions etc. to allocate convenient places for the PCO Booths. The important places given below should invariably be covered while selecting the location of PCO booths:

— Commercial Housing Societies
— Resettlement Colonies
— Government Colonies
— Family Quarters of Defence Personnel
— Students hostels
— Bus Stands
— Tourist Centres
— Airports
— Pilgrim Centres
— Railway Stations
— Charitable Institutions
— Hospitals
— Educational Institutions, Public Libraries etc.

4. A minimum guaranteed revenue per PCO per month to the Department in the case of Non-rural (Urban) STD PCOs is fixed as R. 1600.

5. The amount of security deposit will be Rs. 5000 or an amount equal to the average monthly revenue whichever is higher. The average monthly revenue will be calculated on the basis of previous six months revenue.

6. Fortnightly billing cycle will be followed for recovery of STD PCO charges. If the charges are heavy, weekly billing may be resorted to by local telecom authority.

Receipt of this order may be acknowledged.

Sd/-

(K. V. KRISHNAMURTHY)

Asstt. Director General (PHB)

Lowering the Price of Switching Exchange

1865. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecom have reduced the maximum permissible price of switching exchanges to Rs. 4600 per line;

(b) if so, what is the manner in which lower costs of each line will be helpful to the consumer or phone subscriber; and

(c) what are the details of the benefits which are being passed on to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Special Pay to Assistant Engineers of Telecom

1866. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total sanctioned strength of Assistant Engineers of Telecom Circle of Uttar Pradesh as on date;